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AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREBUS

IGNORE IT, IT'S JUST ANOTHER REALITY

69
DEC

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A Note from the Publisher

You may have noticed a familiar look to our Unique Story this issue. Michael Cherkas and his ever-inquisitive detective Dick Mallet, is back for a return engagement. This story is a three-part puzzler that will intrique you whether you're a detective-genre fan or not. It seems that the more I see of this type of story telling (including not only Ms. Tree, but Max's novels) the more I appreciate it. It certainly seems to grow on you!

Some of you, who have been watching for Swords of Cerebus, Volume Six, may have noticed a bit of a delay. It feels like this was one of those projects where "whatever **can** go wrong, **will** go wrong". In proofing the typesetting, somehow the fact that one of the introductions was being placed out of order, (between two stories, instead of after them) was overlooked. To make matters worse, we had intended to make this particular volume cover five issues of Cerebus, instead of the usual four. The instructions were given, but somehow during the two or so months between when we started work on it, and when the final proofs came in, this was left out. So only four stories were put in, but the introductions covered five issues. It didn't help any the last three, issues #23 - 25 are basically all one story and so need to be together. The only thing we could do (the book had shipped when we caught this error) was print up a supplement to the volume and send it to our distributors. So - what you get is basically a very thin Swords Volume to go with #6. Our apologies. Some days it doesn't pay to get up out of bed!

On the more positive side, we've been getting some very nice response to Gerhard's contribution to Cerebus. I agree with our readers that it is definitely bringing a different look to Cerebus. It seems very much in keeping with Cerebus becoming "Pope" to have this delicate, more elegant feel to the backgrounds.

And, speaking of that team of Dave and Gerhard, they have been hard at work on their new series for next year, Cerebus Jam. Work has begun on the story with Terry Austin and Bill Sienkeweicz is working on a great cover! Add Dave's story with Murphy Anderson, not to mention the idea of Dave working with Will Eisner, and you can imagine how excited everyone is about this book!!

If that wasn't reward enough, our **A-V in 3-D** is shipping out (will be shipped when you read this) and the sales were so strong that I had to increase our order for the 3-D glasses that get bound into the book. Ray Zone (who did the 3-D Separations) was very excited by the diversity between the stories, as well as the imaginative use of 3-D in the stories. I wouldn't be surprised that we sell out within the month!

As I write this, I am preparing for a week-long visit to Los Angeles. Although this began as a vacation, I seem to have planned several business meetings while I am there. Just the **thought** of escaping winter for a week is reward enough to push me through the last few days of work. In the meantime, why don't we check out the new Pope and see how his room of money is faring?

See you next month.

Deni

CEREBUS

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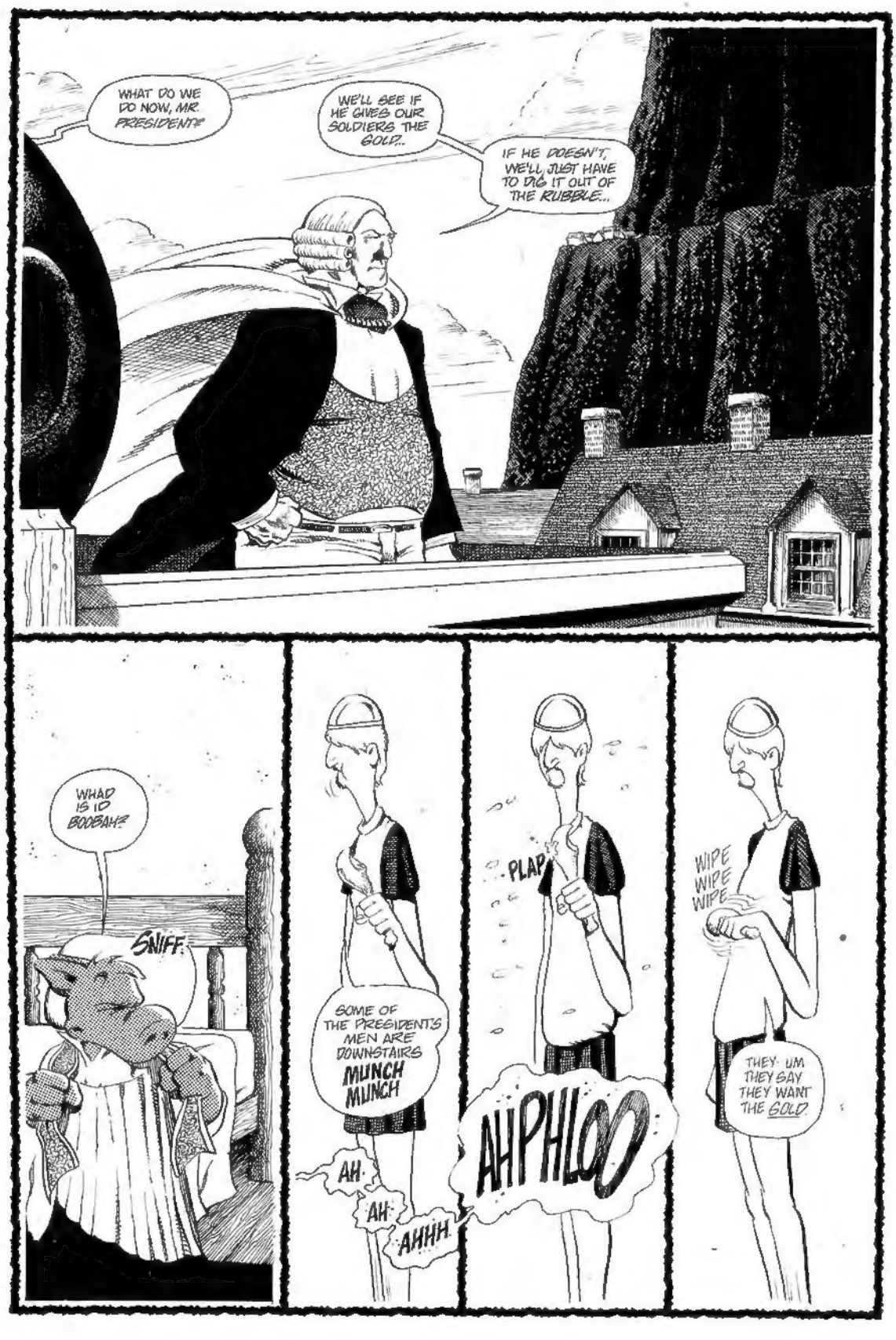
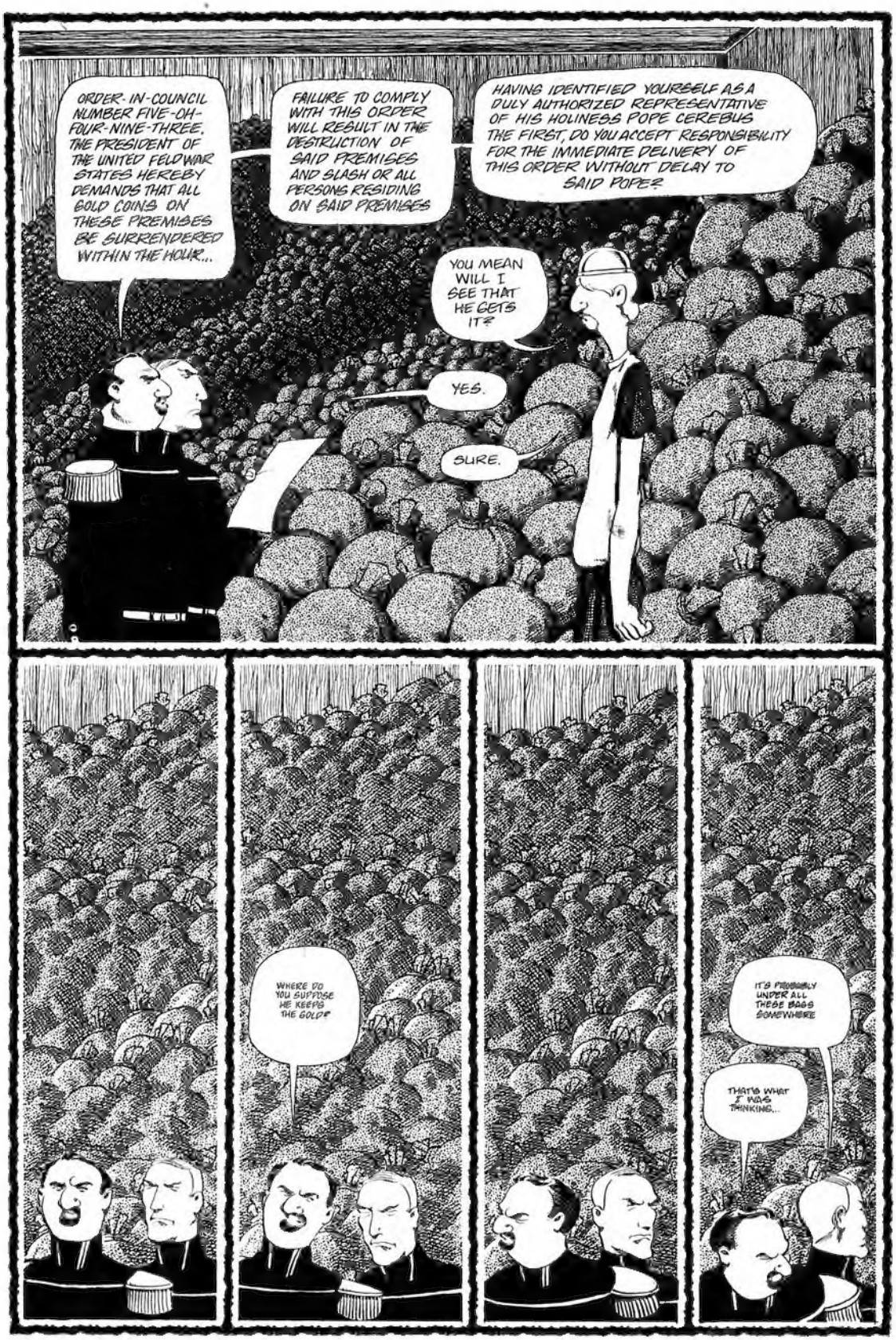
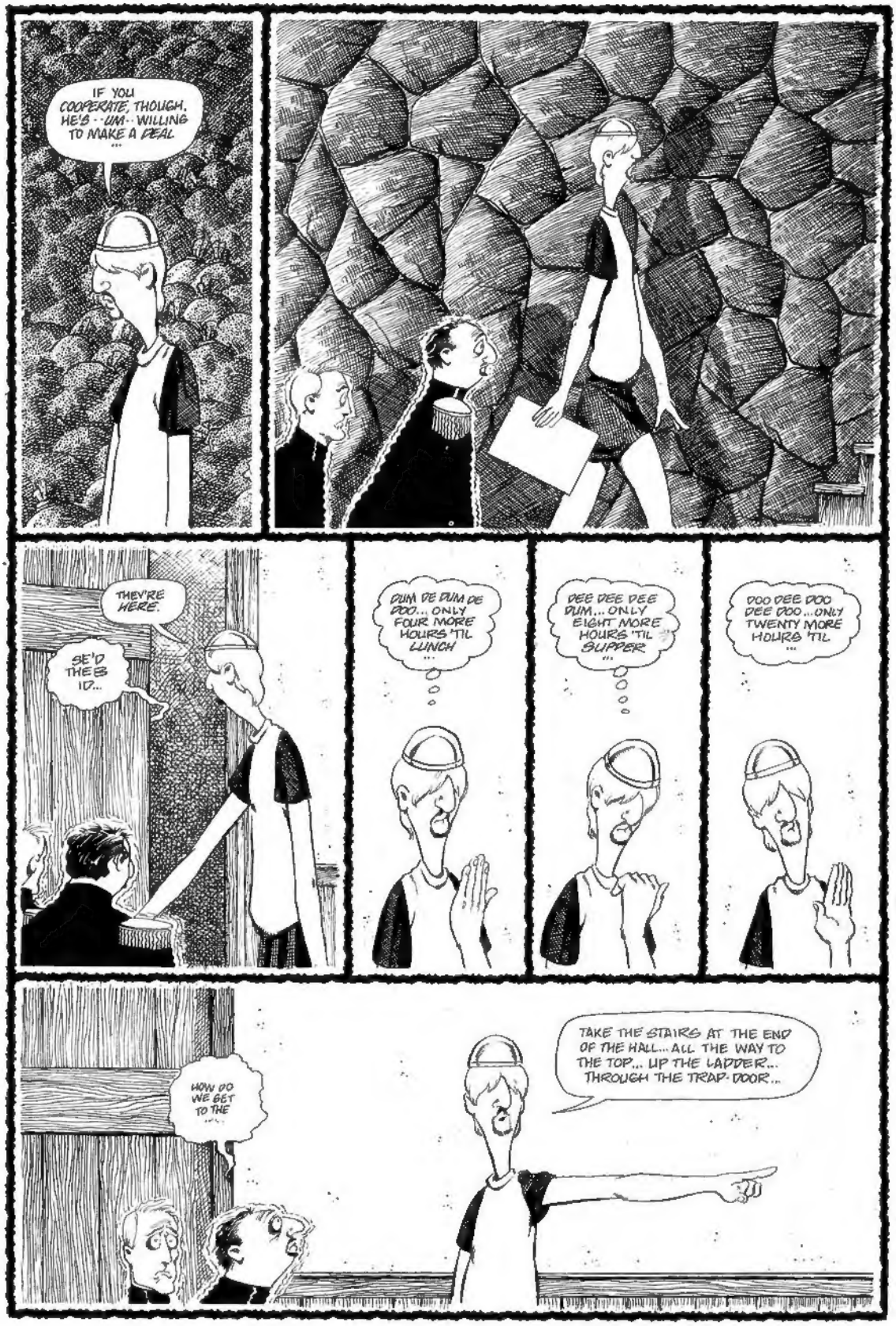
IGNORE IT, IT'S JUST ANOTHER REALITY
I WANT AN ANSWER, AARDVARK!

HE WANDS AD ADSER DUD HE?
SNIFF
BOST HOLY WILL GIB HIB AD ADSER...
SNIFF
BOST HOLY WILL DELL HIM DO...
DOOOO-AH
AH
AH
AH
UH-OH...
AHPHLOO!
BOST HOLY ID GOI'G DO DEED HID UDDER ROBES


WHAT DO WE DO NOW, MR. PRESIDENT?
WE'LL SEE IF HE GIVES OUR SOLDIERS THE GOLD...
IF HE DOESN'T, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO DIG IT OUT OF THE RUBBLE...
WHAD IS ID BOOBAH?
SNIFF
SOME OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEN ARE DOWNSTAIRS MUNCH MUNCH
AH
AH
AHHH
PLAP
AHPHLOO
WIPE WIPE WIPE
THEY- UM THEY SAY THEY WANT THE GOLD

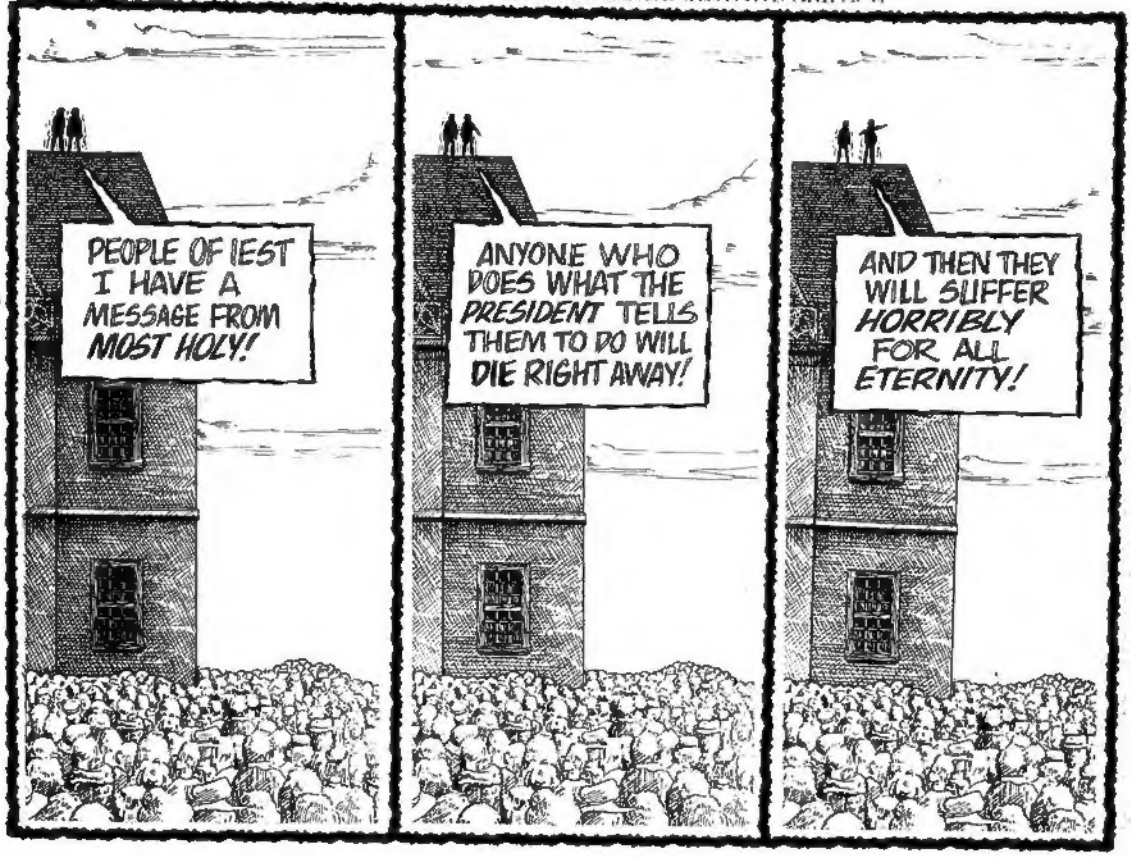

ORDER-IN-COUNCIL NUMBER FIVE-OH-FOUR-NINE-THREE. THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED FELDWAR STATES HEREBY DEMANDS THAT ALL GOLD COINS ON THESE PREMISES BE SURRENDERED WITHIN THE HOUR...
FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER WILL RESULT IN THE DESTRUCTION OF SAID PREMISES AND SLASH OR ALL PERSONS RESIDING ON SAID PREMISES
HAVING IDENTIFIED YOURSELF AS A DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE CEREBUS THE FIRST, DO YOU ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE IMMEDIATE DELIVERY OF THIS ORDER WITHOUT DELAY TO SAID POPE?
YOU MEAN WILL I SEE THAT HE GETS IT?
YES.
SURE.
WHERE DO YOU SUPPOSE HE KEEPS THE GOLD?
IT'S PROBABLY UNDER ALL THESE BAGS SOMEWHERE
THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING...

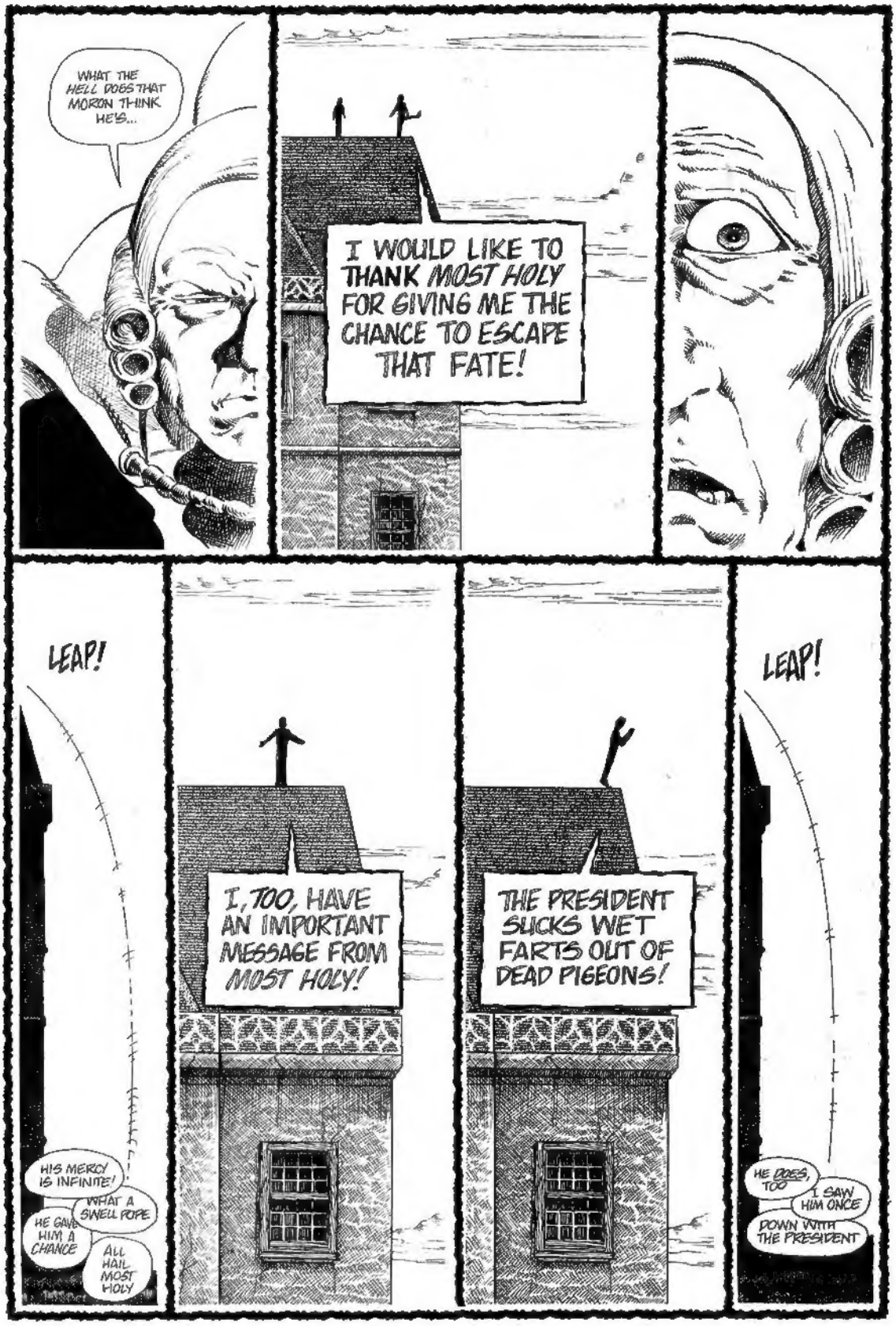
UM.. WHAT ARE YOU GUYS' NAMES?
NAMES?
I'M SERGEANT-MAJOR BENNIE ...
AND THIS IS CORPORAL HENT... WHY?
SKRTCHA SKRTCHA
PAPAL EDICT NUMBER ONE. MAJOR BENNIE AND CORPORAL HENT FOR BEING STUPID ENOUGH TO WALK IN LIKE THEY OWN THE JOINT AND FOR BEING ON THE SIDE OF THAT STUPID PRESIDENT...
ARE HEREBY CONDEMNED TO FALL OVER AND DIE IN THE NEXT HALF HOUR BUT ONLY AFTER ALL THEIR INTERNAL ORGANS HAVE SWELLED TO SIXTEEN TIMES THEIR NORMAL SIZE AND EXPLODED..
IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER THEY ARE CONDEMNED TO SPEND THE REST OF ETERNITY LYING FACE-DOWN ON SHEETS OF RED-HOT METAL WITH HUNDRED POUND WEIGHTS STRAPPED TO THEIR BACKS...


IF YOU COOPERATE, THOUGH, HE'S--UM--WILLING TO MAKE A DEAL ...
THEY'RE HERE.
SE'D THE EB ID...
DUM DE DUM DE DOO... ONLY FOUR MORE HOURS 'TIL LUNCH ...
DEE DEE DEE DUM... ONLY EIGHT MORE HOURS 'TIL SUPPER ...
DOO DEE DOO DEE DOO... ONLY TWENTY MORE HOURS 'TIL ...
HOW DO WE GET TO THE ...
TAKE THE STAIRS AT THE END OF THE HALL... ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP... UP THE LADDER... THROUGH THE TRAP-DOOR...

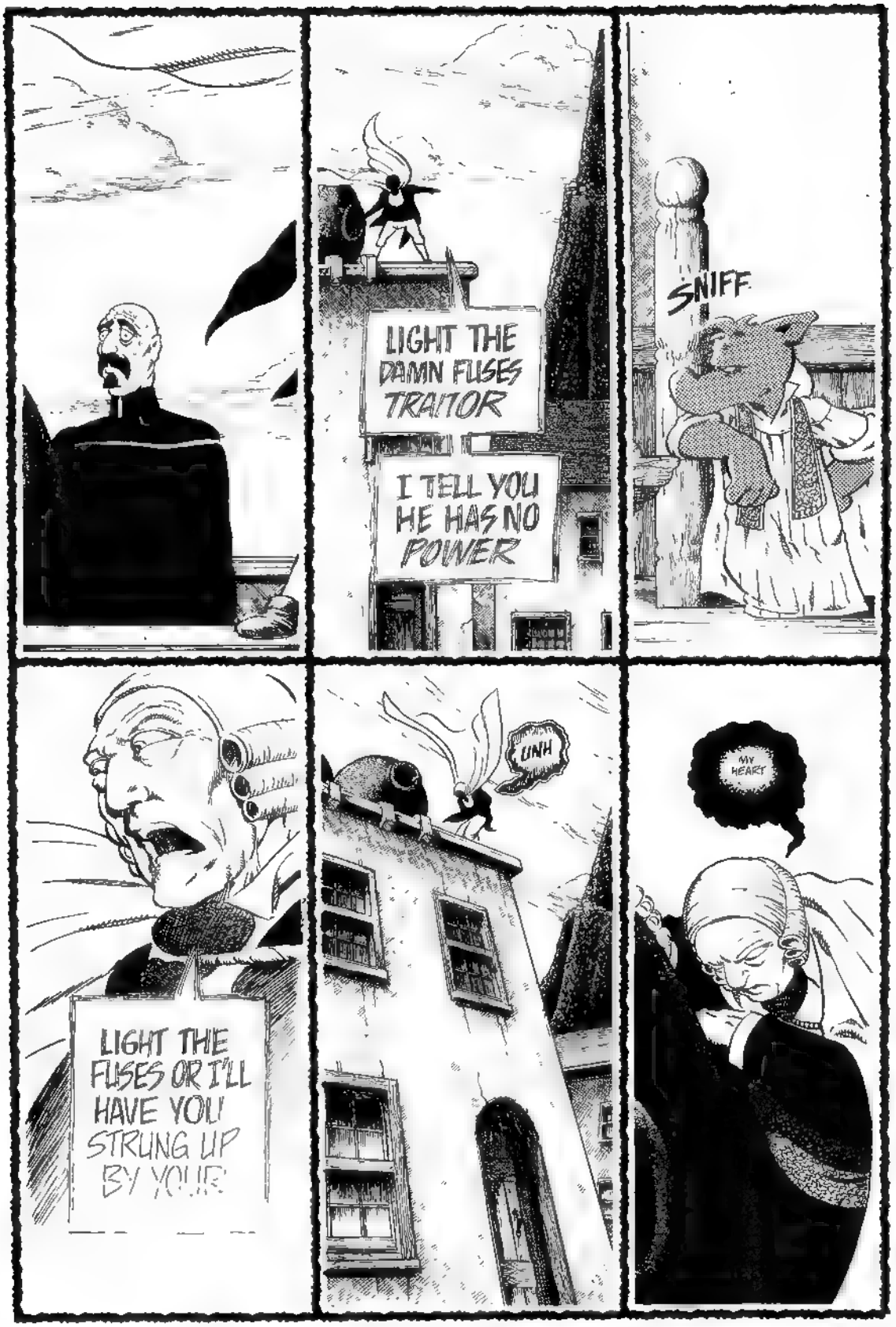
THEY'RE TAKING TOO LONG... WHY ARE THEY TAKING SO LONG...?
WELL, MR. PRESIDENT, THEY...
SHUT UP, SERGEANT. YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY KNOW SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW...

IT'S THEM!
ON THE ROOF!
WHY ARE THEY ON THE ROOF?
WELL, THEY...
..uh...
I DON'T KNOW, MR. PRESIDENT...


PEOPLE OF IEST I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM MOST HOLY!
ANYONE WHO DOES WHAT THE PRESIDENT TELLS THEM TO DO WILL DIE RIGHT AWAY!
AND THEN THEY WILL SUFFER HORRIBLY FOR ALL ETERNITY!


WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MORON THINK HE'S...
I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MOST HOLY FOR GIVING ME THE CHANCE TO ESCAPE THAT FATE!
LEAP!
I, TOO, HAVE AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM MOST HOLY!
THE PRESIDENT SUCKS WET FARTS OUT OF DEAD PIGEONS!
LEAP!
HIS MERCY IS INFINITE!
WHAT A SWELL POPE
HE GAVE HIM A CHANCE
ALL HAIL MOST HOLY
HE DOES, TOO
I SAW HIM ONCE
DOWN WITH THE PRESIDENT

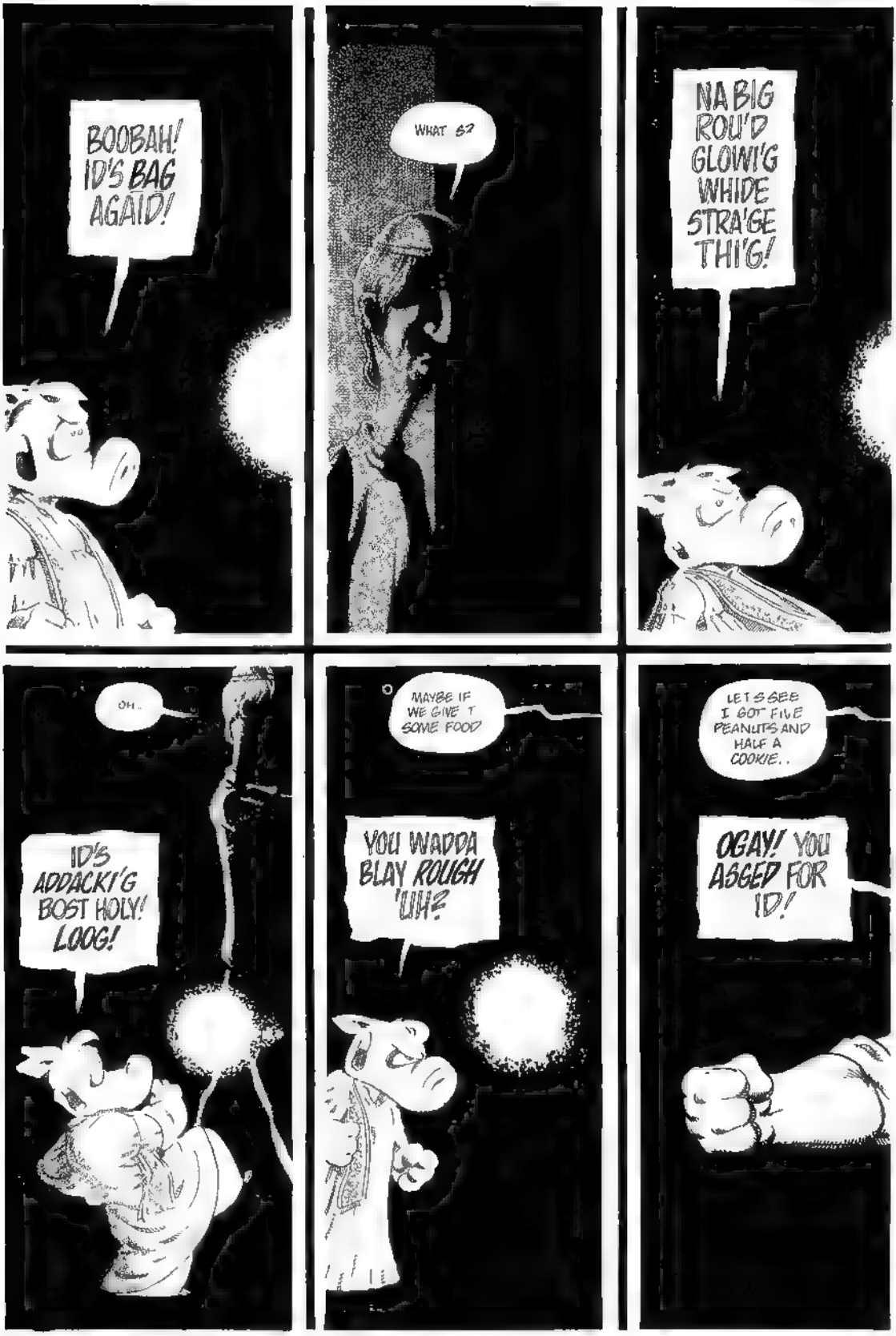
YOU DARE TO MOCK ME AARDVARK?! YOU DARE TO MOCK MY POWER?!
I'LL CRUSH YOU LIKE THE INSECT YOU ARE!!
YOU WANT TO SEE POWER, AARDVARK?! I'LL SHOW YOU MORE POWER THAN YOU EVER DREAMED OF!
I'LL SHOW YOU AND THESE DAMNABLE PEASANTS
SERGEANT
LIGHT THE FUSES!

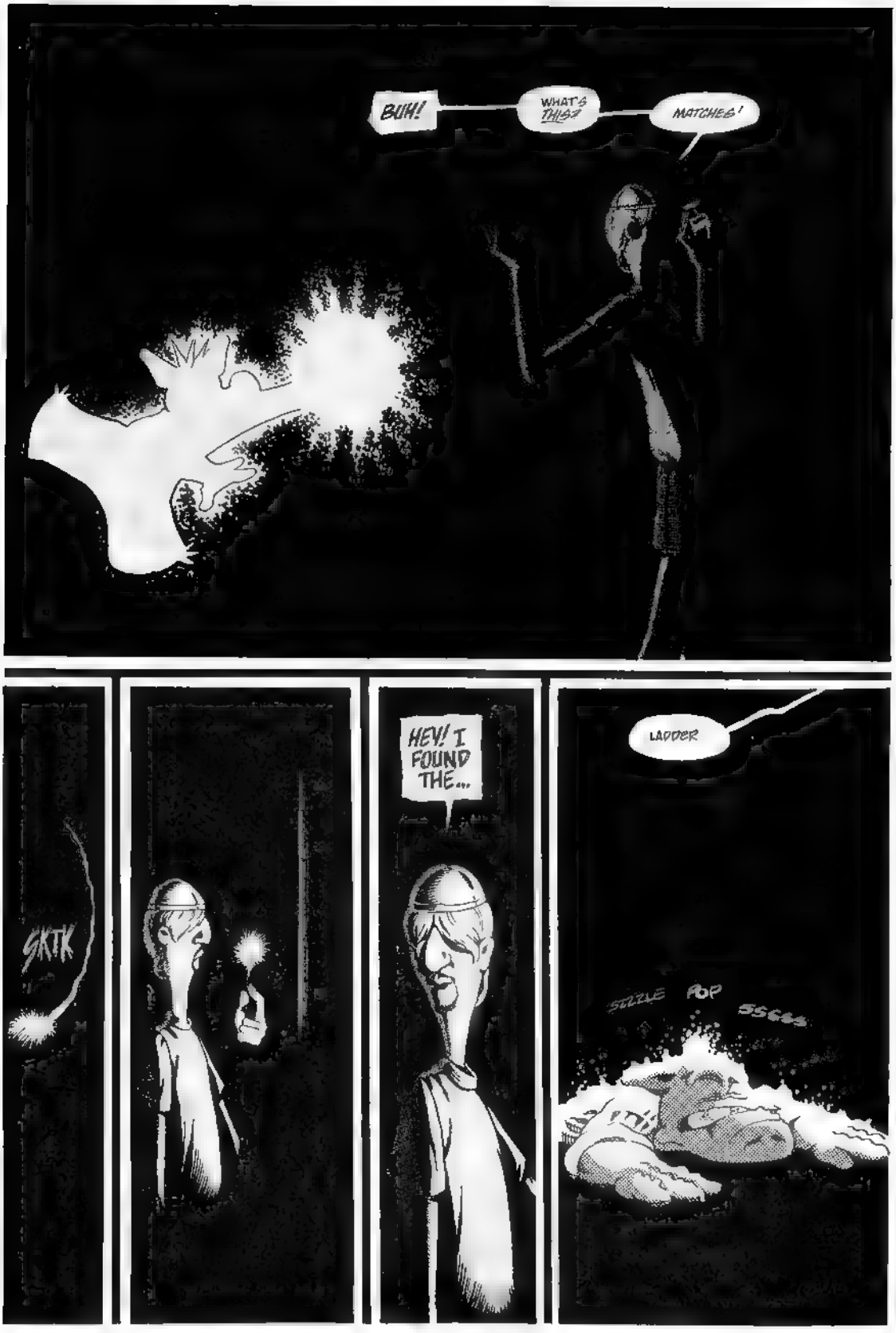

LIGHT THE DAMN FUSES TRAITOR
I TELL YOU HE HAS NO POWER
SNIFF
LIGHT THE FUSES OR I'LL HAVE YOU STRUNG UP BY YOUR
UNH
MY HEART

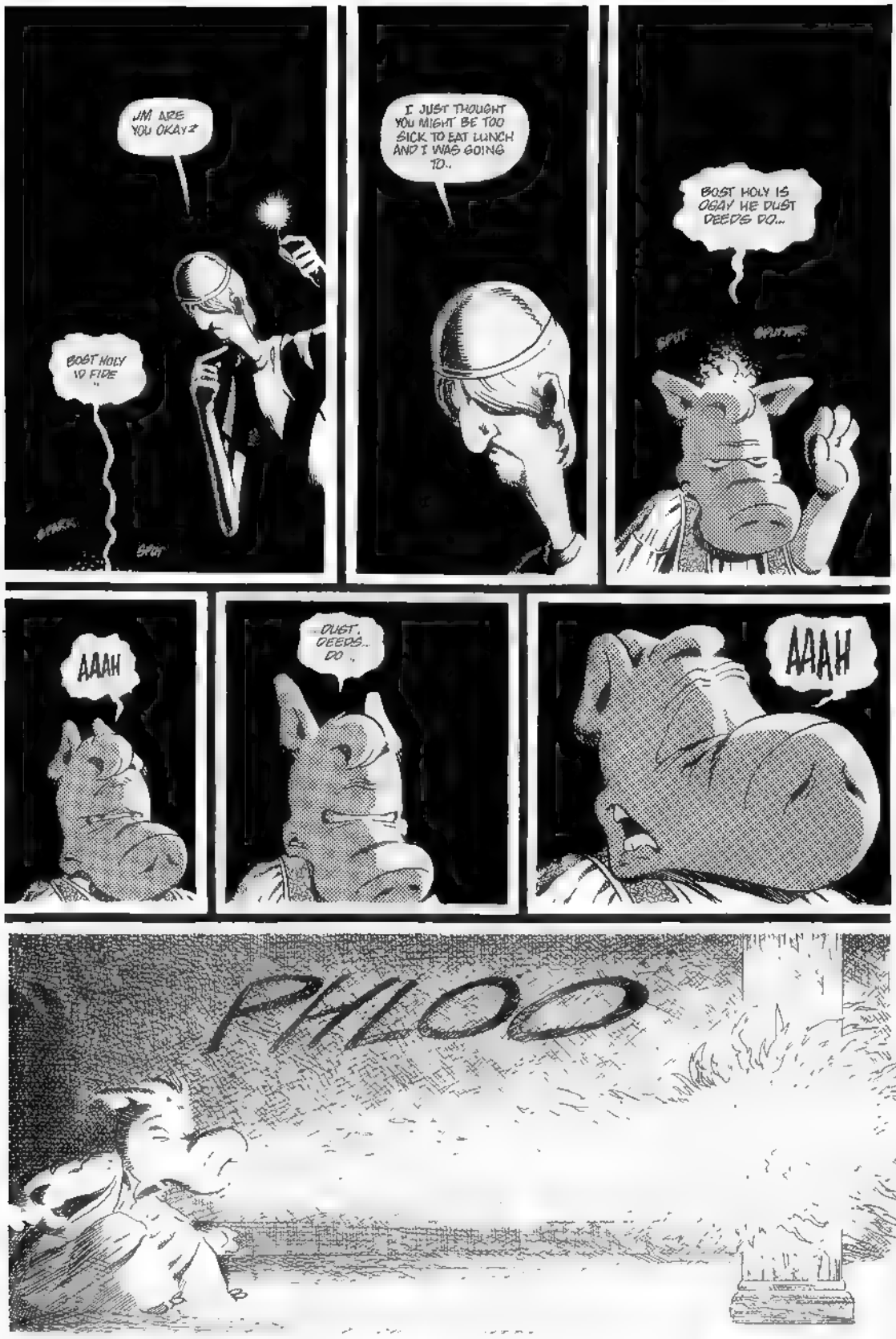
THE PRESIDENT IS DEAD!
ONE LESS MOUTH TO FEED!
HE'S DEAD
TARIM HAS STRUCK HIM DOWN
MOST HOLY HAS MADE HIM PAY
THE PIGEONS CAN REST IN PEACE...
LOOK! HIS NOSTRIL HAIRS ARE BURNING
I SEE THEM, TOO! LOOK, EVERYONE!
DOD BAD
DOD BAD AD ALL
UM- WHAT DO THOSE BIG ROUND THINGS DO?
MM?
OH, DUTHING ID'S DUST A --A
SNIFF..
ID'S DUST A DU'B TRICK
SERGEANT
DON'T
HELP...ME
TO MY CARRIAGE

DOW'S A GOOD DIME DO ASG FOR BORE GOLT COIDS...
BOST HOLY CAD DELL THEB THAD ID DAKES A LOD OB EDERGY DO KILL SOMEWAD AD FAD AD WEIDDHAUPD
SHOULD BE GOOD FOR AD LEASD ANNUDDER THOUSA'D COIDS
SNIF
BAYBE EBEN BORE
WE SHOULD HAB BROUGHD NA LAIP..
ID AROU'D HERE SUBWHERE..

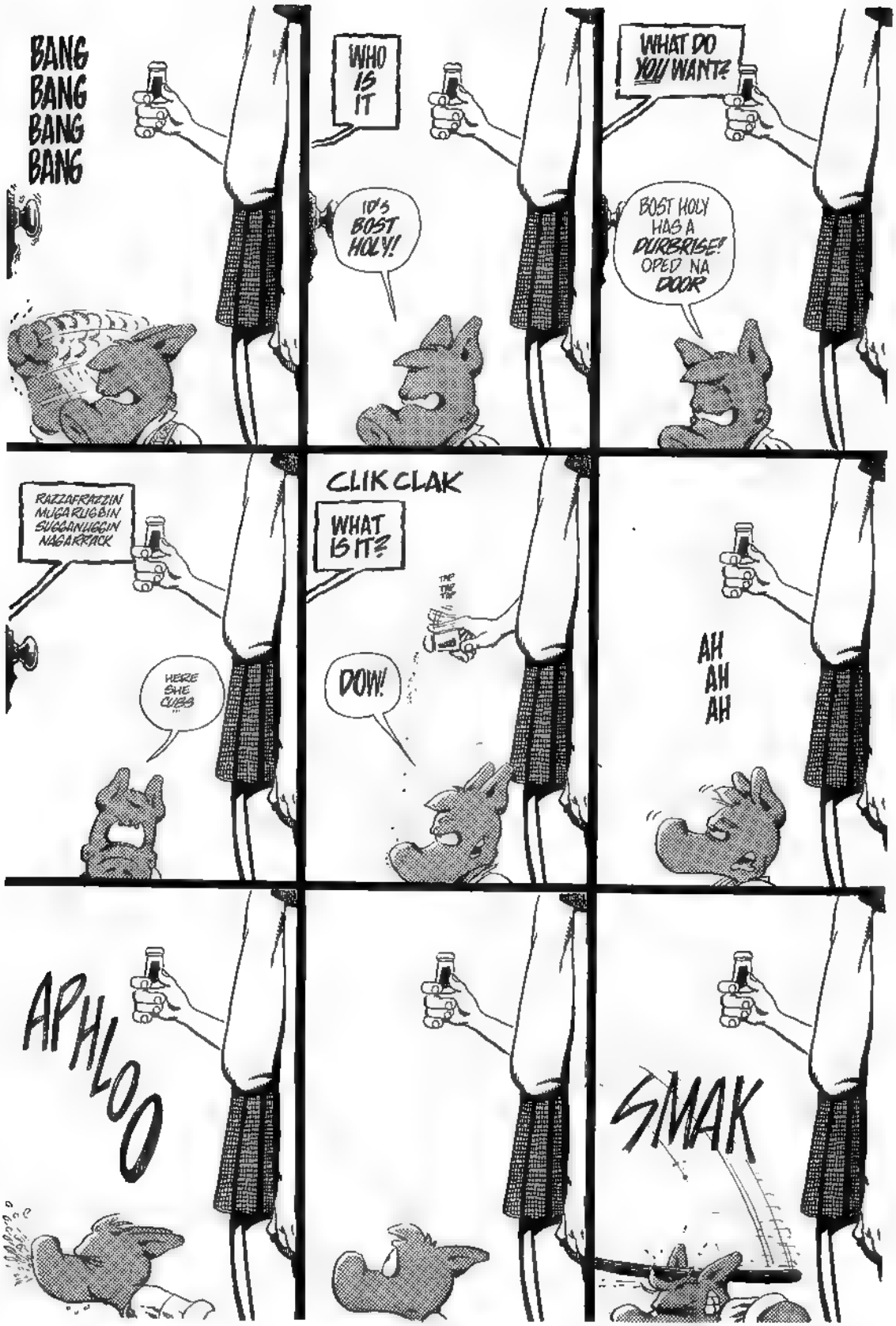
SNIFF
IF THID ID SOME WAD'S IDEA UB A


BOOBAH! ID'S BAG AGAID!
WHAT S?
NA BIG ROU'D GLOWI'G WHIDE STRA'GE THI'G!
OH..
ID'S ADDACKI'G BOST HOLY! LOOG!
MAYBE IF WE GIVE T SOME FOOD
YOU WADDA BLAY ROUGH 'UH?
LET'S SEE I GOT FIVE PEANUTS AND HALF A COOKIE..
OGAY! YOU ASGED FOR ID!

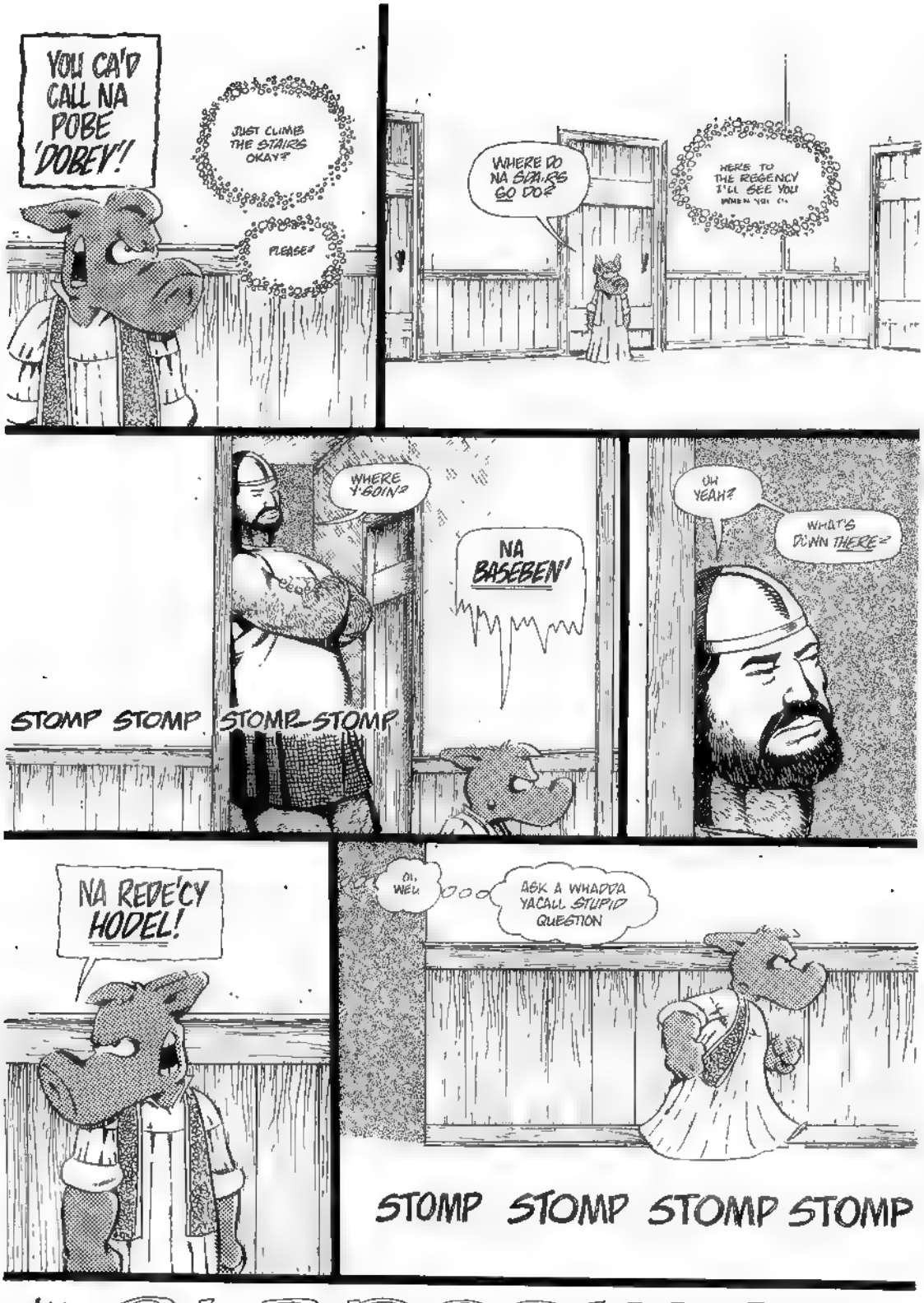

BUH!
WHAT'S THIS?
MATCHES!
SKTK
HEY! I FOUND THE...
LADDER
SIZZLE
POP
SSSS


JIM ARE YOU OKAY?
BOST HOLY IO FIDE
I JUST THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE TOO SICK TO EAT LUNCH AND I WAS GOING TO..
BOST HOLY IS OKAY HE DUST DEEDS DO...
AAAH
..DUST. DEEDS.. DO
AAAH
PHOOD

SO... UM...
SO ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE A SPEECH?
BAYBE LADER RIGHD ODW BOST HOLY HAS A BEDDER IDEA ...
BUD FIRSD WE HAB TO FI'D SUB PEBBER.
OUCH!
AND SOME FOOD TO PUT IT ON?
DOE-DUST PEBBER
OH


BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
WHO IS IT
IO'S BOST HOLY!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
BOST HOLY HAS A DURBRISE! OPED NA DOOR
RAZZAFRAZZIN MUGARUGGIN SUGGANUGGIN NAGARRACK
HERE SHE CUBS
CLIK CLAK
WHAT IS IT?
DOW!
AH AH AH
APHLOO
SMAK

SMACK
SMACKA
WACK
SMACK
SMAT
CRAK
SMAKA
CRAK
UM EXCUSE ME.. I HAVE SOMETHING TO DO ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HOTEL..
SLAM
CEREBUS?
ELF?
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO TALK THIS FAR AWAY.
JUST LISTEN
GO DOWN TO THE BASEMENT TO THE FAR WALL .
WHERE ARE YOU?
IN THE REGENCY DOPEY
DOPEY?
PULL THE LITTLE PIECE OF WOOD DOWN AND TO THE RIGHT
A PANEL WILL SLIDE BACK INTO THE WALL
CLIMB THE STAIRS BEHIND THE PANEL ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP.



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A UNIQUE STORY

"SEPTEMBER BREEZES WEREN'T THE ONLY REASON FOR THE CHILL IN THE MORNING AIR...
"INSPECTOR KEYSTONE OF BURGLARY HAD JUST LEFT. WE'D GIVEN HIM WHAT DETAILS WE COULD— THAT WYNNE'S LATEST FIND, A STATUETTE CALLED THE JADE PRINCESS, HAD BEEN STOLEN DURING THE NIGHT BY A TEMPORARY BUTLER NAMED HOBBS!
HOW EMBARRASSING!! TAYLOR AND LANSDOWNE WILL NEVER LET ME HEAR THE END OF IT!!
IS THAT ALL YOU CAN THINK ABOUT— YOUR PETTY SCHOOLBOY RIVALRY!
WE'VE BEEN ROBBED!!
I'VE NEVER BEEN ROBBED BEFORE!!
"AND I'D NEVER FOULED UP A CASE SO BADLY BEFORE! I'D BEEN HIRED BY WYNNE TO GUARD HIS PRIZE AND HAD FALLEN ASLEEP ON THE JOB!!.. IF I WAS GOING TO EARN MY FEE I HAD TO RECOVER THE GREEN LADY BEFORE THE COPS DID!!

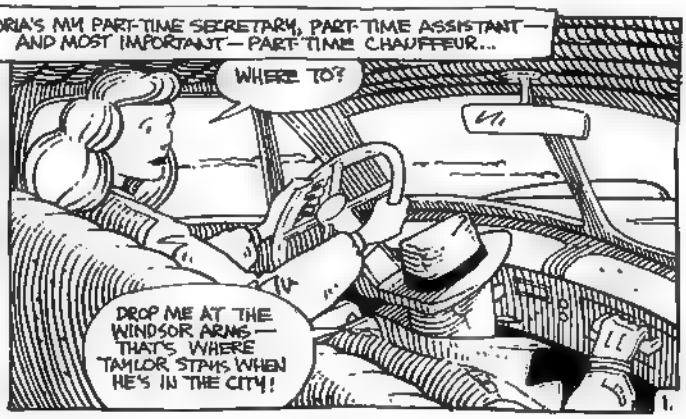
THE PRINCESS IS SO UNIQUE THAT THE THIEF COULDN'T FENCE IT, CORRECT?...
..SO HOBBS WAS PROBABLY ONLY THE HIRED HELP FOR A PRIVATE COLLECTOR WHO'LL KEEP THE STATUE FOR HIMSELF!

DICK MALLET in

"the JADE PRINCESS"

EPISODE TWO

STORY: LARRY HANCOCK. ARTWORK: MICHAEL CHERKAS


"GLORIA'S MY PART-TIME SECRETARY, PART-TIME ASSISTANT— AND MOST IMPORTANT— PART-TIME CHAUFFEUR...
WHERE TO?
DROP ME AT THE WINDSOR ARMS— THAT'S WHERE TAYLOR STAYS WHEN HE'S IN THE CITY!
1.

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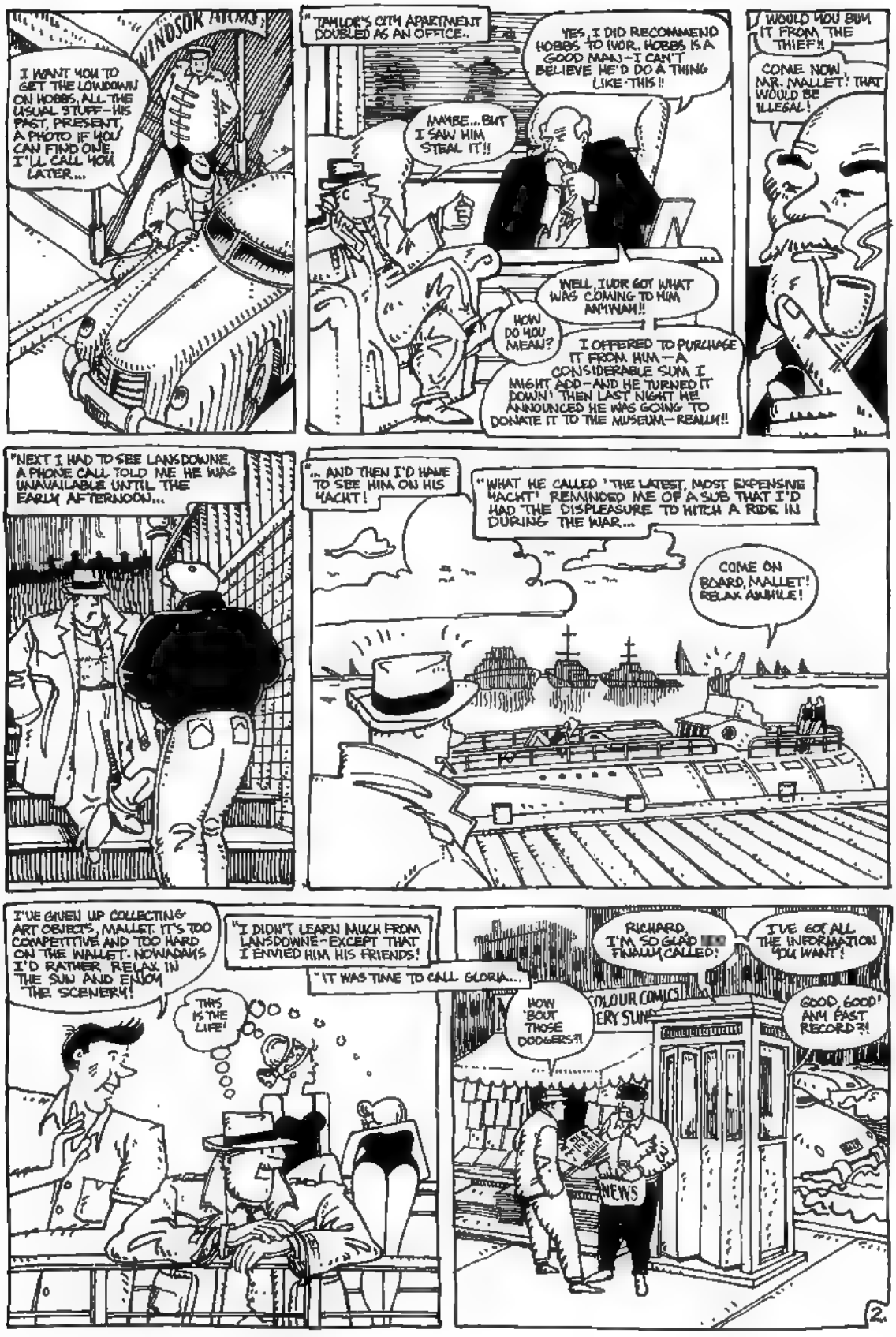
WINDSOR ATOMS
I WANT YOU TO GET THE LOWDOWN ON HOBBS, ALL THE USUAL STUFF—HIS PAST, PRESENT, A PHOTO IF YOU CAN FIND ONE. I'LL CALL YOU LATER...
"TAYLOR'S CITY APARTMENT DOUBLED AS AN OFFICE..
YES, I DID RECOMMEND HOBBS TO IVOR. HOBBS IS A GOOD MAN!—I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'D DO A THING LIKE THIS!!
MAYBE... BUT I SAW HIM STEAL IT!!
WELL, IVOR GOT WHAT WAS COMING TO HIM ANYWAY!!
HOW DO YOU MEAN?
I OFFERED TO PURCHASE IT FROM HIM—A CONSIDERABLE SUM I MIGHT ADD—AND HE TURNED IT DOWN! THEN LAST NIGHT HE ANNOUNCED HE WAS GOING TO DONATE IT TO THE MUSEUM—REALLY!!
WOULD YOU BUY IT FROM THE THIEF!!
COME NOW, MR. MALLET! THAT WOULD BE ILLEGAL!
"NEXT I HAD TO SEE LANSDOWNE. A PHONE CALL TOLD ME HE WAS UNAVAILABLE UNTIL THE EARLY AFTERNOON...
"... AND THEN I'D HAVE TO SEE HIM ON HIS YACHT!
"WHAT HE CALLED 'THE LATEST, MOST EXPENSIVE YACHT' REMINDED ME OF A SUB THAT I'D HAD THE DISPLEASURE TO HITCH A RIDE IN DURING THE WAR...
COME ON BOARD, MALLET! RELAX AWHILE!
I'VE GIVEN UP COLLECTING ART OBJECTS, MALLET. IT'S TOO COMPETITIVE AND TOO HARD ON THE WALLET. NOWADAYS I'D RATHER RELAX IN THE SUN AND ENJOY THE SCENERY!
"I DIDN'T LEARN MUCH FROM LANSDOWNE—EXCEPT THAT I ENVIED HIM HIS FRIENDS!
"IT WAS TIME TO CALL GLORIA...
THIS IS THE LIFE!
RICHARD, I'M SO GLAD FINALLY CALLED!
I'VE GOT ALL THE INFORMATION YOU WANT!
HOW 'BOUT THOSE DODGERS?!
GOOD, GOOD! ANY PAST RECORD?!
NEWS
2.

NO, HE'S CLEAN.
BUT LISTEN, RICHARD... INSPECTOR HENDERSON CALLED A FEW MINUTES AGO. HE WANTS TO SEE YOU AT TAYLOR'S APARTMENT!
YEAH, FINE... NOW, LISTEN, GLORIA, I WANT YOU TO-
— WAIT A MINUTE! HENDERSON!... AT TAYLOR'S?!
"BILL HENDERSON'S MY BEST BUDDY — HE'S A COP — HOMICIDE! WHICH COULD ONLY MEAN ONE THING!!
DICK!? ARE YOU THERE?!
"UNFORTUNATELY, I WAS RIGHT!
DICK! GLAD YOU'RE HERE... NOW TELL ME WHAT'S...
EXCUSE ME, INSPECTOR?
NOT NOW, O'MALLEY!
I HEAR YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THIS GUY... HIS SECRETARY SAYS YOU WERE HERE... HOW LONG AGO?!
OBVIOUSLY THE MURDERER!
ABOUT THREE HOURS.
ANY IDEA WHO DID HIM IN?
NO. BUT IT WAS A NASTY HIT... THREE BULLETS IN THE STOMACH...
HAPPENED ABOUT TWO HOURS AGO..
"THE SECRETARY, BENSON WAS OUT AT LUNCH — CAME BACK AND FOUND HIM LIKE THIS... NO APPOINTMENTS WERE SCHEDULED AT NOON...
I COULD SWEAR THIS MOBSTAH IS THE REAL THING!!
MOTIVE?
$100,000 IN THE SAFE.
NONE APPARENT. WE FOUND THE SAFE LOCKED. BENSON OPENED IT. HE SAYS NOTHING'S MISSING... THERE'S A LOT MORE CASH THAN NORMAL, THOUGH!... ABOUT A HUNDRED GRAND!!
WHAT'S YOUR INTEREST IN TAYLOR, DICK?
WELL, I WASN'T DATING HIM!...
PERHAPS, YOU CAN HELP THOUGH. LET'S MULL IT OVER ACROSS A COFFEE AND A DONUT...
3.

"I STOPPED TO CALL GLORIA AND TELL HER WHERE TO FIND US. THEN I FILLED HENDERSON IN ON THE CASE AS WE WAITED FOR HER...
CLOSED
Phil's
'AFTERNOON, INSPECTOR!
HERE'S THE SCOOP, RICHARD. HOBBS LOOKS TO BE AS CLEAN AS A WHISTLE. NO RECORD. NO TROUBLE OF ANY KIND.
CARE FOR A DONUT, GLORIA?!
UH.. NO THANKS, RICHARD.
HELLO, GLORIA.
BUT HE HASN'T BEEN HOME TO HIS APARTMENT SINCE TWO DAYS BEFORE HE TOOK THE JOB AT MINNIE'S PLACE.
BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE PLANNED TO LEAVE HIS PLACE FOR THAT LONG!
ANOTHER DONUT?... SHOULD I OR SHOULDN'T I?!..
I MANAGED TO TUCK AWAY THIS PHOTO OF HIM, WHILE HIS LANDLADY WASN'T LOOKING!
SO THIS IS THE GUY YOU THINK MAY HAVE KNOCKED OFF TAYLOR, EH, DICK?!...
...SAY! HOLD ON JUST A MINUTE! I THINK WE'D BETTER HOP DOWN TO THE STATION HOUSE!
.. I THINK I'VE GOT SOME BAD NEWS, DICK!!
MORGUE
I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO GO IN THERE, RICHARD!
"HE WASN'T MUCH TO LOOK AT— BUT IT WAS HIM - HOBBS!
WE FISHED HIM OUT OF THE BAY...
WHAT TIME THIS MORNING?
NOT THIS MORNING, DICK! FIFTEEN DAYS AGO!!
"BUT IT COULDN'T BE—I'D SEEN HIM ALIVE LAST NIGHT WHEN HE'D STOLEN THE PRINCESS!"
CONTINUED...

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1 FEB

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AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION "C", KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

How do you start a fan letter?

Dave, Cerebus has never looked as good (clean, expressive) as he has in the last few issues. Ok, that's enough ego boost for now . . . on to the bitching. #65, #66 and #67 all had me falling out of chairs, rolling around on the ground, and grabbing people walking by on the street, shoving a copy of Cerebus into their hands, and screaming, "REPENT! I look about me . . . and what d I see? I see harlots (I wish I saw more of them . . .) . . . drunkards! (what the hell do you expect from a university of pittsburgh) . . . people who don't read Cerebus! Blasphemy! Unholy! Unclean!" It's fun. Now about #67,, I thought it very amusing, but I found the volumes of text a bit daunting. I think I understand why you chose to do this in this issue, but I hope Cerebus soon breaks Boobah's hand. I like Cerebus' new look, but seeing him up there on the chimney with his papal robes blowing in the wind, reminded me of Marilyn Monroe.

On to other issues. Gerhard, the backgrounds are fantastic. I'm stunned. Hey! Could you...er, maybe I shouldn't ask...I'll do it anyway...Could you send me a little background (don!t send snow..)? A tree? With leaves? How about some rocks? C'mon please (beg, grovel..)? If you haven't the time, maybe you can get Dave to pop on a Cerebus or Sophia to take up some of the blank space, I wouldn't mind.....(I bet this didn't go over too well...)

Contest? I thought I heard someone say, "Contest"....I did. I did hear someone say, "Contest". Well in that case, I have three entrys: Gerhard Dartmoor - Named after the English prison. Why else would any sane man stay up until three in the morning drawing bricks?

Gerhard Panza - Named after Sancho Panza, a rustic peasant whose common sense contrasts his master's (Don Quixote's) visionary idealism.

Gerhard Gaberlunzie - to honor his poor upbringing. At least it's better than "mendicant." (look it up - I like this one).

I know my names. I've had mine long enough.

Spass Stoiantschewsky
Carnegie - Mellon, U.,
Pittsburgh, PA.,

Nothing personal, but it looks like you picked the letters at random from a box of Alpha-bits.

I kind of like Gerhard Panza. And just in case you folks thinks these are the only suggestions we've had so far, here's one that seemed to cut through to the heart of the matter;

****

Dear Dave,

Let's be serious, shall we? Gerhard is obviously somebody's last name. Let's call him Frank.

Sincerely,

One of those people who don't sign their real name and say dumb stuff

At least it wasn't written in crayon

****

Dear Dave,

RE: A last name for Gerhard, I think I've got it.

Gerhard Vark - Vanaheim.

Daniel W. Boone
2600 Oak Street,
Vicksburg, MS., 39180

I thought this one was good, except it looks like the name of

For those of you who have been wondering who Boobah is based on, here are two photos of the Apetite that Walks Like a Man..... Robert W. Rittinger, a good friend of mine. Photos courtesy of R.W. Rittinger. (and you thought *I* had an ego problem).

some Ukranian Vitcount-in-Exile or something.

●●●●●●●●●●

Dear Dave,

I've got the answer to Gerhard's last name. It's so obvious it's incredible. Yeah, you guessed it. The answer to all this silliness is:

[illegible]

Here's how we can get Mike back for all those awful letters! Before I leave you belching fire from the indigestion that gave you,I'll tell you I loved the cover to Cerebus #67. It almost makes up for the cover of #65 (just kidding).

Signing off,

Pete Corson Jr.
1109 Gunnison Place,
Raleigh, NC., 27609

It was a nice idea but Gerhard's girl-friend Rose wasn't crazy about commuting from London Ontario to Dubuque Iowa every weekend. The train connections are unbelievable bad... and she's allergic to cows.

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Folks,

What follows is my lame attempt to win a page of original art by naming Gerhard. By a curious and not uncommon quirk of personality, I experience a certain thrill at seeing my name in print; therefore, I would like to offer my own last name to Gerhard: Van Meter.

This name has a number of advantages. Not only does it just plain sound artistic, it is a bargain at two last names for the price of one!

Yours truly

Charles Van Meter
P.O. BOX 761
Greer, SC., 29652

This looks too much like a set-up for another lawsuit.

●●●●●●●●●●

Dear Dave,

RE: "give Gerhard a last name contest"..... dig this.

"GERHARD RAVENBIRTH"

Uh, sorry, west coast and all that.....

Cordially yours,

P. Daniel Rowe
#16, 10046 Fifth Street,
Sidney, B.C. V8L 2X9

Like, oh wauw, he could start a commune. Ditchin'

★★★★★★★★★★

Hey Dave,

"Gerhard, Schmerhard" -

bring back Dannon & Co. and get to work on that "Sugar 'n' Spike" cross-over you promised us in issue #131!

Good-bye Greetings
from Rochester in November

Joe Harley
172 Stonewood Avenue,
Rochester, NY., 14616

I thought this was the best suggestion so far until I saw the comma.

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Dave,

First of all, I would like to let you know just what happens to those of us who read Cerebus

Dave, Gerhard and I on the last stop of our mini-tour of Lollipops of Florida. The cat banged on Gang Beach Straight for the previous twenty-nine hours. It is a remarkable achievement that we are all upright and semi-coherent.

faithfully. Some very strange things have been happening to me recently.

For instance, my use of the first person pronoun has been slipping. If people don't know better, they look at me funny. My skin is turning grey, and I've got Groucho Marx running around inside my brain, narrating my every thought and action. You, ah say, you don't realize just what your book does to people, boy. Just keep it up.

I've just read #66, and I, too would like to know.....

JUST WHAT THE HELL ISTHAT THING?

Is it a halo? Is it a sign from the Living Tarim? Please tell us soon! Better hurry up, Dave, there are seven of us locked in a small room, waiting for each issue to appear at one of the local shops. Since we're all college students, you can imagine what this does to our schoolwork.

By the way, when is the Elf going to come back? Cerebus could use a little relief from all the pressure. I love your art Dave, and Gerhard's backgrounds are a great compliment to your characters.

Counting the days until #300, I remain,

David L. Preiser
Somewhere in the Red
Marches, not too far
from the Pigts.

Actually, the only reason I printed this letter is because he asked when the Elf was coming back and since she's coming back next issue, you'd all think that I pay attention to my fan-mail. Or that I make it all up.

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear A-V,

Cerebus has suddenly had a sharp increase upwards in quality. Cerebus is getting gooder and gooder lately. Ha! the baby scene was truly cruel. Inhumane. Monstrous. But it was damn funny!

THEM BONES
McDonough, GA., 30253

This if the first positive letter I've ever gotten from this whack-O. It's hard to take them seriously because he writes them on recipe cards. I'm glad he thinks the book is getting gooder and gooder, though.

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Dave,

Issue #67 was very good, but the best part was the letter from C Lingus. However, she said that there are two things she waits for every month. The first is Cerebus, but what's the second? Come on Dave, don't hold out on us this time!

Bob Montgomery
President, C. Lingus Fan Club
39 Elm Street,
Hingham, MA., 02043

PS: Bring back the old letters page. Do you want Mike, T.M., Micky, and BOB to starve?

★★★★★★★★★★

Dearest C. Lingus,

That black-and-white photo that you sent does not properly project the lustre of your pure-as-milk skin to the pallor of the life's juices which stain your eager lips.

Since the printing of that picture, many is the time in which while reading that issue of Cerebus that my mind will wander to errant imaginings of those soft lips, to be carressed by the flow of my life, while after quenching the thirstings of your belly, would cascade past cool shoulders to the.....well.

Perhaps later?

Dark, Pres. of the new
C.Lingus Fan Club
1600 Jefferson Ave.
Woodlyn, PA., 19094

How about that? A fan club with two presidents. 1600 Jefferson Ave sounds more presidential so I think we'll extend official recognition to Dark. Maybe one of these presidents can help this next gentleman:

★★★★★★★★★★

Okay Dave, listen close, this is critical stuff! Now Dave, you must tell me, was there a return address on the letter in issue 67 that you received from C. Lingus? I have to know, I must have that address, the fate of the world hangs in the balance! I've been hunting that nocturnal bimbo for the last three years, and now, thanks to what may prove to be a fatal mistake on her part, I've finally got her! Or rather I should say that I will have her, as soon as I get that address.

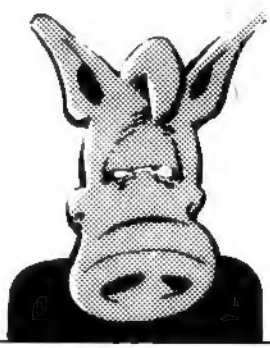
By the way, I'd really appreciate it if you didn't print this letter, I don't want to alert her to my presence. The last time I got this close to nailing her, she sent several of her Lycanthropic henchmen around to my place to try to waste me. Luckily I was out at the apothecary at the time, trying to procure a rare hybrid of garlic and Kallistic Gold. Even so, her boys did a really beautiful job on my pad, they stole my stereo, tore up the sofa, they left their droppings all over the shag rug, and they wrote a whole bunch of carnal verbs on the walls with aerosol paint. As you can see, I've got quite a score to settle with this wench.

Regardless of all that, I've got to have your help if I'm going to put a stop to this menace. If I don't waste this chick soon, all of North America is going to be up to its eyeballs in drooling, perverted, untanned, anthropomorphic mosquitos. If you do have her address, print it. If not, then say so, but don't make any references to this letter. Remember: the fate of the world hangs in the balance.

ANONYMOUS

I'm afraid (as Ronald Reagen once said) that the world will just have to take its chances.

Makes me wonder what kind of mail I would've gotten if I'd printed the rest of Connie's letter.



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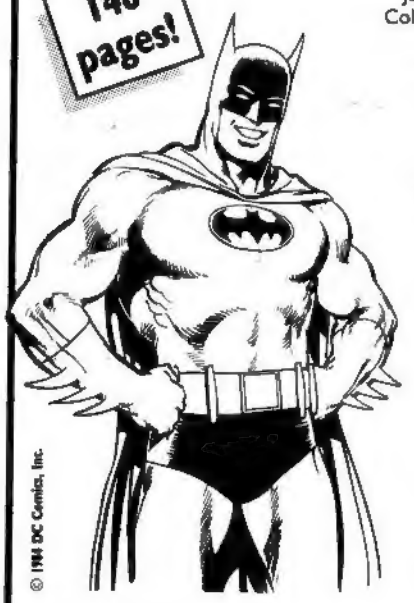

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